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09/762,269

04/17/2001

Takafumi Yuasa

2001-0044A

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7590

03/11/2005

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EXAMINER

PHAN, RAYMOND NGAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2111

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/762,269

Applicant(s)

YUASA ET AL.

Examiner

Raymond Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on August 4, 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on May 24, 2004
2. This application has been examined. Claims 6-12 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan-Ratzlaff (US NO. 5,852,545) in view of Markow et al. (US No. 6,359,994).

In regard to claim 6, Pan-Ratzlaff discloses the portable computer device 200 comprising a computer main unit (i.e. portable computer) having a mounting section 12 containing a terminal section 22 that exchanges signals with the computer main unit, which are disposed in the computer main unit, and a space (see figure 3, col. 6, line 39 through col. 7, line 14); a locking mechanism (see col. 10, lines 1-14); a loudspeaker unit, which contains another terminal section 24 to exchange power and sound signals with the computer main unit by connecting with the terminal section 22, detachably from the mounting section (see figure 3, col. 6, line 39 through col. 7, line 14). But Pan-Ratzlaff does not specifically disclose the acoustic space and a port for reproducing low-audio frequencies. However Markow et al. disclose the mounting speakers for the laptop computer that

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comprises the acoustic space and reproducing low-audio frequencies (see col. 4, line 55 through col. 5, line 50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Markow et al. within the system of Pan-Ratzlaff because it would produce an enhanced psychoacoustic sound effect.

In regard to claim 7, Pan-Ratzlaff discloses the audio speakers with a built-in amplifier (see col. 12, line 55 through col. 13, line 2).

In regard to claim 8, Pan-Ratzlaff discloses the terminal section has the power supply terminal supplying power to loudspeaker unit (see col. 6, line 39 through col. 7, line 14).

In regard to claims 11-12, Pan-Ratzlaff discloses the port having a elongated chamber formed in the loudspeaker unit and arrange such that the loudspeaker unit is received in the mounting section of the computer main unit with the first terminal section connected with the second terminal section, the port opens to an exterior of the computer main unit (see col. 5, line 24 through col. 6, line 22).

5. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pan-Ratzlaff in view of Markow et al. and further in view of Seo et al. (US No 6,044,423).

In regard to claims 9-10, Pan-Ratzlaff or Markow et al. disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above rejection except the teaching of the first terminal comprising a plurality the terminals providing for connection to a terminal of a rechargeable battery. However Seo et al. disclose the swappable system that allows a plurality of different peripheral devices interchangeable connected to the I/O port 135 including a battery (see figure 3, col. 3, lines 19-41). Therefore, it

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would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Seo et al. within the system of Pan-Ratzlaff and Markow et al. because it would enhance expandability of the portable computer.

Conclusion

6. All claims are rejected.
7. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hickman (US No. 5,610,992) discloses a portable electronic device having a ported speaker enclosure.

Muranami et al. (US No. 6,233,343) disclose a power adapter having a speaker for an electronic device.

Barruset al. (US No. 5,768,100) disclose a modular computer having configuration-specific performance characteristic.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for response to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the date of this action. In the event a first response is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for response expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Raymond Phan, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30AM- 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary, Paul Myers can be reached on (703) 305-9656 or via e-mail addressed to paul.myers@uspto.gov. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [raymond.phan@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

PAUL R. MYERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Raymond Phan
2/22/05